

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The new abstract of the disclosure corresponds to the present wording of the main claim and is believed to overcome the objection raised by the Examiner.

Without changing their scope, the claims have been rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Proper antecedent language has been provided for all positively recited features, and the structure shown in Fig. 1 is believed to be clearly and distinctly set forth in the claims.

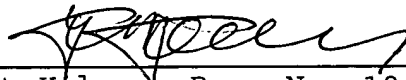
The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alber, cited, is respectfully traversed. This patent corresponds to EP 1 129 923 A2, which was placed of record by applicant and whose disclosure has been extensively discussed on page 2, lines 1-14, of the specification.

Alber nowhere suggests the claimed connecting rod 9 to which crank mechanism 13 is connected. Rather, Alber's crank 16 of crank shaft 30 is linked directly to supporting foot 15. An intermediate connecting rod being lacking in Alber, there is no guide for such a connecting rod in Alber. In the patented structure, casters 17 are mounted on cranks 14 of the crank shaft so that the axles of the casters move in a circular path

about the crank shaft. This has nothing to do with the guidance of Alber's supporting foot 15. Thus, the structure recited in claim 5 clearly is not anticipated by the cited patent, nor is it obvious therefrom. Claims 6 and 7 set forth additional features not suggested by Alber, and these claims are believed to be patentable on their own merits.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-7 are respectfully solicited.

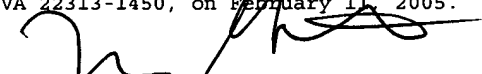
Respectfully submitted,



Kurt Kelman, Reg. No. 18,628
Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg. No. 26,048
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 11, 2005.



Maria Guastella

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